

Claims

1. For a firefighter or an emergency worker, a protective garment having a back portion, which is breathable to allow air and water vapor to pass through the back portion, and a front portion including a fluid-impervious, heat-reflective layer, which is continuous from a region at or near a top of said garment to a region at or near a bottom of said garment.

2. The garment of claim 1, wherein said heat-reflective layer also is continuous from a region at or near one side of said front portion to a region at or near the other side of said front portion.

3. The garment of claim 1, wherein said garment comprises a coat having two shoulders and having a bottom edge, wherein the top of the said heat-reflective layer is at or near the shoulders, and wherein the bottom of said heat-reflective layer is at or near the bottom edge.

4. The garment of claim 3, wherein said coat includes a closable front opening between opposite sides, and wherein said continuous heat-reflective layer extends across said opening.

5. The garment of claim 1, wherein both said front and back portions comprise breathable moisture and thermal barriers, said heat-reflective layer overlying said barriers, over substantially the entire front portion.

6. The garment of claim 5, wherein said heat-reflective layer comprises an aluminized layer.

7. The garment of claim 6, wherein said aluminized layer comprises aluminized, polyester film.

8. For a firefighter or an emergency worker, a protective garment having a front portion and a back portion, the back portion being breathable to allow air

and water vapor to pass through the back portion, substantially the entire front portion including a continuous, fluid-impervious, heat-reflective layer.

9. The garment of claim 8, wherein both said front and back portions comprise breathable moisture and thermal barriers, said heat-reflective layer
5 overlying said barriers, over substantially the entire front portion.

10. The garment of claim 9, wherein said heat-reflective layer comprises an aluminized layer.

11. The garment of claim 10, wherein said aluminized layer comprises aluminized, polyester film.

10 12. The garment of claim 8, wherein said garment front portion extends from a region at or near a top of said garment to a region at or near a bottom of said garment, and from a region at or near one side of said garment to a region at or near the other side of said garment.

15 13. The garment of claim 12, wherein said garment comprises a coat having two shoulders and having a bottom edge, wherein the top of said heat-reflective layer is at or near the shoulders, and wherein the bottom of said heat-reflective layer coat is at or near the bottom edge.

14. The garment of claim 13, wherein said coat includes a closable front opening between said garment sides.